(b) Group of Ministers is examining the following issues pertaining to functioning of Prasar Bharti:—

(i) Capital Structures & funding patterns of Prasar Bharti;

(ii) Restoration of Section 22 of the Prasar Bharti Act;

(iii) Continuation of facilities of accommodation health & education to employees until they join Prasar Bharti.

(iv) Financial package & service condition to be offered to the employees for joining Prasar Bharti;

(v) Filling up of Essential category posts in AIR & Doordarshan.

(vi) Amendment, if any, to Prasar Bharti Act, 1990 in the light of working of the Act;

(vii) Transition to commercial Audit and

(viii) Other related issues, if any.

(c) No time frame can be indicated in this regard.

Civil Nuclear Power Expansion Programme

147. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of India's civil nuclear power expansion programme indicating whether both Republicans and Democrats strongly support the Indo-US Nuclear deal;

(b) whether the Indian Ambassador in US has reportedly advocated the need for commercial investment in the nuclear energy sector both by Indian investors and by private foreign investors;

(c) whether Prime Minister's scientific advisor has also sought urgent reforms in the existing regulations to allow the private sector in the field of nuclear power; and

(d) if so, Government reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The US Congress is currently considering amendment to US laws to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation with India. On 26 July 2006, the US House of Representatives passed Bill H.R. 5682 titled "United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006" with a convincing majority of 359-68. On November 16,2006, the US Senate

passed its version of the Bill by an overwhelming majority of 85-12. A Conference will be convened shortly by the Congress to reconcile the House and Senate versions of the bill which will then be voted upon in its final form by both chamers. The wide margins of approval secured in both the House and the Senate reflects strong bi-partisan support for the Indo-US nuclear bill.

(b) and (d) Private sector has already been participating in several aspects of nuclear power plant construction in India.

Talks with Pakistani President in Havana

148. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Prime Minister met the Pakistani President in Havana during the NAM Conference held in September, 2006 to carry forward peace process in the region including Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details of discussion/outcome thereof;

(c) whether the former Prime Minister of India has reportedly expressed fears over the talks by saying that Pakistan may use the joint mechanism suggested by the India to contain terror towards pushing New Delhi to eventually accepting joint control of J&K and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh had a bilateral meeting with President Musharraf of Pakistan on 16 September 2006 in Havana in the margins of the NAM Summit. Their discussions covered the issues of terrorism, Jammu & Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and Line of Control related confidence building measures. They directed their Foreign Secretaries to resume the Composite Dialogue at the earliest possible.

(c) and (d) The Government of India is conscious of misapprehensions about the India-Pakistan Anti-Terrorism Mechanism. Government remains vigilant to prevent any adverse impact on India's security.